GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1441
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
INCLUSION OF HEPATITIS B IN NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include Hepatitis-B in the schedule under the National Immunisation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country would need six million doses of Hepatitis-B vaccine;

(d) the present quantity of vaccine available in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the shortfall?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Yes Sir, the Government proposes to include Hepatitis B in the schedule under the National Immunization Programme;

(b)Hepatitis B disease does not have any effective treatment but there is a highly safe and effective vaccine, which can prevent hepatitis B infection and its serious consequences like liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. Administering Hepatitis B vaccine to all infants in National Immunization Programme would save more than 1.5 million (15 lakhs) chronic Hepatitis B infections and more than 0.2 million (2 lakhs) deaths due to Hepatitis B.

(c) The country would need more than 6 million doses of Hepatitis B vaccine per year. To vaccinate all infants the country would require approx 100 million doses.

(d) At present five vaccine manufacturing institutions are manufacturing the Hepatitis B vaccine in the country.The combined installed capacity of the five institutions is 5160 lakhs doses per annum

(e) Doesn't arise.